

**PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS SECTION MEETING
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL SCIENTISTS
MADISON, WI
MINUTES**

OCTOBER 24, 2001

PRESENT: Joan Underwood, Thomas Evans, David Mickelson, and Fred Birts (by phone until 11:05 a.m.)

STAFF PRESENT: Katharine Hildebrand, Grace Schwingel, Judy Mender and Darwin Tichenor

CALL TO ORDER

MOTION: Joan Underwood called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. A quorum of 4 Section members was present.

AGENDA

MOTION: Thomas Evans moved, seconded by David Mickelson, to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES (6/20/01)

MOTION: Thomas Evans moved, seconded by Fred Birts, to approve the minutes of June 20, 2001. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Katharine Hildebrand

- **Section Roster**

The Section roster was approved. Hildebrand is working on filling the open position on the Section. Fred Birts has served on the Board since 1993 and his term has expired, but he has agreed to continue serving until a replacement is appointed. Currently, David Mickelson and Fred Birts serve on the Screening Panel. Only one member needs to be present at screenings, but there must be a professional member present for the Screening Panel.

- **2002 Section Meeting Dates**

The Section approved the meeting dates for 2002.

- **To-Do List**

The Section reviewed the To-Do list. The Section likes receiving the To-Do list with their agenda packet and then going through it at the meeting to review the tasks designated from the previous meeting.

- **To-Pass Folder**

Noted.

- **Regulatory Digest**

The Section would like to be able to produce a high-caliber newsletter, with a more polished look to it. The issue of budget constraints was raised. Several topics, such as electronic signatures, exam issues, a legislative update on SB 156 and AB 358, and an update on the Interagency Liaison Committee were suggested as articles for the February Regulatory Digest. Mender will get the current number of licensees in each of the Sections of the Joint Board to put in the Regulatory Digest.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SB 156 and AB 358

Tom Evans gave a summary of the impact of SB 156 and AB 358. These are almost identical bills that exempt government employees from licensure requirements. The Section is opposed to exempting government employees from being credentialed and having to meet minimum standards of education or experience before engaging in the practice of geology. The feeling was that these bills basically take a practice act and turn it into a title act. The Joint Board formed a committee to provide examples of scenarios that could pose a problem as a result of the impact SB 156 and AB 358. The Section would like to be kept informed by the Department's Legislative Liaison of developments with this legislation.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Nothing.

SECTION MEMBER ACTIVITY

None.

ASBOG

Report on Annual Meeting, Underwood

Joan Underwood did not attend the October ASBOG meeting due to the events of 9/11/01. There were a number of cancellations for the ASBOG meeting. An ASBOG Exam Workshop

will take place in the spring. Thomas Evans was designated to represent the Section at the Spring Workshop in Indianapolis on April 12, 13, 2002.

MOTION: Dave Mickelson moved, seconded by Joan Underwood, to approve Thomas Evans to attend the ASBOG Exam Workshop in the Spring on April 12, 13, 2002. Motion carried unanimously.

Since Joan Underwood will not have to pay for her attendance at the fall annual meeting, the Section would like to send another board member with Underwood to the fall annual meeting. Hildebrand will coordinate having two members attend the ASBOG Fall Annual Meeting, November 4-10, 2002.

INTERAGENCY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Report on Meeting with Representatives from the Departments of Commerce and Natural Resources, Evans

Tom Evans gave a report to the Section on the issues discussed at the Interagency Liaison Committee on October 23, 2002. The members of this committee are: Tracy Benzel from the Soil Science Section, Bob Karnauskas from the Hydrology Section and Thomas Evans and Joan Underwood from the Geology Section. Other state agency representatives involved in this committee are: Paul Morrison (DATCP), Lorie Huntoon (Commerce), and Mike Lemcke (DNR).

The purpose of the Interagency Liaison Committee is to coordinate administrative rule requirements between the various state agencies, recognizing the different responsibilities each agency has been given, and dealing with the reality of workforce issues. The Committee also is working to resolve concerns about exempting state employees from licensure requirements. The Committee will focus on educating practitioners about potential conflicts and the requirements to be a licensed soil scientist, hydrologist and geologist. The Committee believes it is important and beneficial to have a conversation going on between the agencies on these issues.

Hildebrand will get a copy of a letter written by the DNR, saying the DNR is in support of the intent of the proposed legislation. She will report to the Section on the Assembly vote.

EXAMINATION ISSUES

Darwin Tichenor reviewed materials he handed out to Board members, and discussed ASBOG's use of the fundamentals exam as an exit examination. Tichenor will work with Hildebrand to send a follow-up letter informing colleges of the costs involved in the exit exam from ASBOG and how colleges could make themselves part of the process, making it cost effective for their students who have majors or minors in geology. A brochure that is being updated and will also be sent with this letter.

Tichenor also reported on the hydrology exam that was developed for licensure of hydrologists by the Exam Office in coordination with the American Institute of Hydrology (AIH), with the

intent to transfer the examination ownership to AIH, along with the responsibility for maintenance and administration of the examination. An agreement has been finalized for transfer, free of charge, of the Wisconsin examination to AIH in 2002, with the May administration of the Hydrology licensing examinations. Wisconsin is the only state in the U.S. that licenses hydrologists. Tichenor developed some articles for the Regulatory Digest on examination issues.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION

Comity Application Denial Statistics

Mender reported on the number of comity applicants (4) who were denied a Wisconsin geologist credential because they had not taken an exam to gain licensure in another state. For comity to take place, an applicant must be coming from a state in which he or she was required to take an exam. The Section feels it is important to be consistent in denying comity applications if individuals received their license in another state during a period, including a grandfathering period, when they did not have to take an exam.

The Geologists Section wanted to create a record reaffirming their policy on comity applications for future reference. This record will outlast the current board membership so that future board members will know the history of this issue. The Section felt the instructions in the application packet need to be clarified regarding the qualifications for licensure by comity in Wisconsin. Mender will have the instructions in the application packet revised to clarify the qualifications for applying for Wisconsin licensure by comity from another state.

MOTION: Thomas Evans moved, seconded by David Mickelson, to firmly establish the Section's policy on granting applications by comity. To apply by comity in Wisconsin, an applicant must have taken and passed an exam in the state where he or she received a license, since an exam is currently required in Wisconsin for licensure. An applicant who received a license in another state during a "grandfathering period" in which an exam was not required, would not be eligible for licensure by comity in Wisconsin. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Mickelson referred to a flyer the Board created several years ago and sent to all of the Departments in the State of Wisconsin. Mickelson has drafted some changes to update this flyer to reflect current Board information. The Section was in favor of preparing an updated brochure. Mickelson suggested some wording to include in the brochure. Hildebrand will review the brochure to verify that all Department information is current. Mender will work with Roxanne Peterson to see if the Geology brochure, "Becoming a Professional Geologist in Wisconsin - A Student Guide" is online or can be put on the Department's website.

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Joan Underwood moved, seconded by Thomas Evans, to recess to closed session to deliberate on cases following hearing pursuant to (s. 19.85 (1)(a), Stats.; to consider licensure or discipline (s. 19.85(1)(b), Stats.; to consider individual histories or disciplinary data (s. 19.85(1)(f), Stats.; and, to confer with Legal Counsel (s. 19.85(1)(g), Stats. Joan Underwood-yes, Thomas Evans-yes, David Mickelson-yes and Fred Birts-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session recessed at 11:05 a.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

MOTION: David Mickelson moved, seconded by Thomas Evans, to reconvene in Open Session at 11:35 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

VOTE ON ITEMS CONSIDERED OR DELIBERATED UPON IN CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: David Mickelson moved, seconded by Thomas Evans, to approve by examination and 5 years experience, John Bruskevitz, Barbara Flietner, Darcy Lenz, Steven Osterberg and Jennifer Ronk. Motion carried unanimously.

SUCH OTHER ITEMS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Thomas Evans moved, seconded by David Mickelson, to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 20, 2002

DATE: February 6, 2002

TO: Katharine Hildebrand

FROM: Grace Schwingel

SUBJECT: Geologists Meeting, October 24, 2001 To Do List

1. **Hildebrand** is working on filling open positions on the Section.
2. **Mender** will get the current number of licensees in each of the Sections of the Joint Board to put in the Regulatory Digest.
3. Hildebrand will include other articles in the Regulatory Digest which deal with the topics of electronic signatures, exam issues, a legislative update on SB 156 and AB 358 and an update on the Interagency Liaison Committee.
4. **Mender** will check to see if the Geology brochure, "Becoming a Professional Geologist in Wisconsin - A Student Guide" is online or can be put on the Department's website. Instead of trying to list different areas of geology, just say, "anyone who offers to practice, or practices **any aspect of** geology." Add a sentence that says, "the code of ethics also regulates the geologist's interaction with the public and government agencies." Then Mender will make the recommended changes to the Department's brochure and submit it to Roxanne Peterson.
5. **Hildebrand** will coordinate having two Section members attend the ASBOG Fall Annual meeting.
6. **Hildebrand** will see that agendas are sent for the Geology Section meetings and GHSS Jt. Board meetings to Paul Morrison (DATCP), Lorie Huntoon (Commerce), and Mike Lemcke (DNR).
7. **Mender** will have the instructions that are in the application packet revised to reflect the Section's intent regarding the qualifications for accepting applicants from other states by comity.
8. **Tichenor** will work with **Hildebrand** to send a follow-up letter informing colleges of the costs involved in the exit exam from ASBOG and how colleges could make themselves part of the process and make it cost effective for their students who have majors or minors in geology. The brochure that is being developed will also be sent with this letter.